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# Urban District of Brixham

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

1943

SHQUAD
BRIXHAM.

# Urban District of Brixham

Chairman of the Council :

COUNCILLOR J. PENNY, J.P.

**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE :**

Chairman : COUNCILLOR C. WIDDICOMBE.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

**HOUSING COMMITTEE :**

Chairman : COUNCILLOR C. M. ASHFORD.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council :
SANDERS LEAR

**PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :**

Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, and Port Medical Officer :

†‡ANDREW DICK, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer :

*†J. I. SNODGRASS, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Foods, Port Health Inspector, Housing Officer, and Inspector under the Petroleum and Explosives Acts :

†‡FRANCIS LAWRENCE GODFREY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

*Part time.
‡Whole time.
†Salary contribution by Exchequer Grants.

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# REPORT

OF THE

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

## THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM

## FOR 1943.

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1943. In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health the report is confined to essential statistics.

1. BIRTH RATE.

The number of births has fallen considerably, due to war-time change in population.

DEATH RATE

This is again unstandardised, so that no true comparison as regards age-group, death rate can be made. Heart conditions in an increasingly ageing population have been mainly the cause of an increase.

2. INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There was a sharp epidemic of measles, not of great severity, and not causing any fatal case. There were no cases of Diphtheria, and only nine sporadic cases of Scarlet Fever.

3. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The number of children protected in the 5 to 15 years age-group being large,a n effort was made to increase the percentage protected in the 1 to 5 years age-group.

Seventy-one children in this latter group completed immunisation. At the end of the year the approximate % ages fully immunised were:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Age-group 1 to 5 years ... ... ... | 25.8% |
| Age-group 5 to 15 years ... ... ... | 66.8% |

The immunising agent used in all cases was Alum Precipitated Toxiod in two injections of 0.3 to 0.4 cc and 0.5 cc. No ill effects have been reported to me with the exception of one or two cases of temporary localised swelling and tenderness at the site of injection.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant.

A. DICK,

Medical Officer of Health.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Area of District ... ... ... | 5,626 acres |
| Population, 1931 Census ... ... ... | 8,147 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses, 1943 (approx.) | 2,625 |
| Rateable Value of District at April 1st, 1943— | |
| Inside Harbour Area ... ... ... | £46,725 |
| Outside ,, ,, ... ... ... | £3,476 |
| Total | £50,201 |

# VITAL STATISTICS, 1943.

## LIVE BIRTHS.

| | Male. | Female. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate ... | 63 | 59 | 122 |
| Illegitimate | 7 | 6 | 13 |
| | 70 | 65 | 135 |

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 10.48

## STILL BIRTHS.

| | Male. | Female | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate ... | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | — | 1 |
| | 4 | 1 | 5 |

Rate per 1,000, total live and still births ... ... ... 35.70

## DEATHS.

| Male. | Female. | Total. |
|---|---|---|
| 74 | 74 | 148 |

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...16.26

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—

| | Male. | Female. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate ... | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — |

Rate per 1,000 of the live & still births, 49.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

| | |
|---|---|
| Puerperal Sepsis ... ... | — |
| Other Puerperal Causes | — |

Rate per 1,000 live and still births 00.00

# RAINFALL, 1943

The rainfall, registered at Combe Bank, by Sir H. Clayton, Brixham, for 1943, was as follows: January, 9.64 inches; February, 1.76; March, 1.10; April, 1.26; May, 4.18; June, 1.30; July 2.87; August, 2.79; September, 4.14; October, 4.05; November, 2.22; December, 3.79; total of 39.10 inches. The average for the last 10 years is 41.90.

By courtesy of Sir Harold Clayton.

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1943 (As supplied by Registrar General)

| Disease | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ... | | | |
| Measles ... ... ... ... | | | |
| Scarlet Fever ... ... ... ... | | | |
| Whooping Cough ... ... ... | | | |
| Diphtheria ... ... ... ... | | | |
| Influenza ... ... ... ... | | | |
| Encephalitis ... ... ... ... | | | |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ... ... | | | |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Other Tuberculosis ... ... ... | | | |
| Syphilis ... ... ... ... | | | |
| Cancer ... ... ... ... | 11 | 12 | 29 |
| Diabetes ... ... ... ... | | | |
| Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c. ... ... | 7 | 6 | 13 |
| Heart Disease .. ... ... ... | 13 | 21 | 34 |
| Other Circulatory Diseases ... ... | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Bronchitis ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) ... ... | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases ... ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Peptic Ulcer ... ... ... ... | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ... ... | | | |
| Appendicitis ... ... ... ... | | | |
| Other digestive diseases ... ... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ... | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| Puerperal Sepsis ... ... ... | | | |
| Other Puerperal Diseases ... ... | | | |
| Congenital debility, Premature birth, etc. | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Senility ... ... ... ... | | | |
| Suicide ... ... ... ... | | | |
| Other Violence ... ... ... | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| All Other Causes ... ... ... | 9 | 11 | 20 |
| Diarrhœa (over 2 years) ... ... | | | |
| Smallpox ... ... ... ... | | | |
| Polio-myelitis ... ... . ... | | | |
| Polioencephalitis ... ... ... | | | |
| Total All Causes | 74 | 74 | 148 |

## Notification of Infectious Diseases.

| | |
|---|---|
| Typhoid ... ... ... | 0 |
| Pneumonia ... ... ... | 8 |
| Erysipelas ... ... ... | 8 |
| Scarlet Fever ... ... ... | 9 |
| Diphtheria ... ... ... | 0 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... ... | 0 |
| Whooping Cough ... .. ... | 0 |
| Measles ... ... ... | 85 |

Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital, Kings Ash, Paignton, from Brixham Urban District, during 1943.

Total Number of Cases : 10 (all Devon Residents).

| Disease | Number of Cases. |
|---|---|
| Scarlet Fever ... ... | 6 |
| Erysipelas ... ... ... | 1 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis ... ... | 1 |
| Cases for observation .. | 2 |

Cases admitted to "Dunedin" Auxiliary Isolation Hospital, Paignton, from Brixham Urban District, during 1943.

Total Number of Cases : 18 (17 Evacuees and 1 Devon Resident).

| Disease. | Number of Cases. Evacuees. | Residents. |
|---|---|---|
| Chicken-pox ... ... ... | 13 | 0 |
| Mumps ... ... ... ... | 3 | 0 |
| Measles ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 |

## TUBERCULOSIS.

| Age Periods | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 25 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | |
| 35 | 2 | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| 45 | | | | | | | | |
| 55 | 2 | | | | 2 | | | |
| 65 *and upward* | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Totals | 7 | 6 | | | 4 | 2 | | |

The above total of 13 new cases includes 4 foreign war refugees and 4 evacues.

# ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
# SANITARY INSPECTOR
For the Year ending 31st December, 1943.

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my Eighteenth Annual Report, which, as required by the Ministry of Health, is confined to statistics only.

Yours faithfully,

F. L. GODFREY,

Sanitary Inspector and
Inspector of Meat and Foods.

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## HOUSING, 1943.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including number given separate under "b"):

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| I. | By Local Authority ... ... ... | 0 |
| II. | By other Local Authorities ... ... | 0 |
| III. | By other bodies or persons ... ... | 0 |

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| I. | By the Local Authority ... ... | 0 |
| | (a) For the purpose of Part II of the Housing Act, 1925 ... .. | 0 |
| | (b) For the purpose of Part III of the Housing Act, 1925 ... ... | 0 |
| | (c) For other purposes ... ... | 0 |
| II. | By other bodies ... ... ... | 0 |

## HOUSING STATISTICS, 1943.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

1 (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ... ... ... 128

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 128

2 (a) Number of dwelling-houses (including under sub-head 1 above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and 1932) ... .. 128

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 157

3 Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... 0

4 Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ... ... 49

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ... 41

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 17

2 Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners ... ... ... ... 17

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... ... .. 35

2 Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners ... ... ... ... 35

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... 0

2 Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... 0

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1 Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... ... ... ... 0

2 Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement of room having been rendered fit ... ... ... ... 0

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV (Overcrowding).

(a) 1. Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year ... ... ... ... .. 0
2. Number of Families dwelling therein ... 0
3. Number of Persons dwelling therein ... 0

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year ... ... ... 0

(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year ... ... . ... 0
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases 0

(d) Particulars of cases in which Dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. 0

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider desirable to report. 0

# SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

*and Work of the Public Health Department, 1943.*

## HOUSING.

Number of dwelling-houses completed during year 1942 :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Detached Houses ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Terrace Houses ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Bungalows ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Total number of dwelling-houses completed during year 1943 ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Public Building, Workshops, etc. ... ... | 1 |

Number of houses built during the year for working classes :—

| | |
|---|---|
| By Local Authority ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| By Private Effort ... ... ... ... | 0 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of new houses or flats required for working class .. .. ... ... ... ... | 110 |
| Houses inspected ... ... ... ... | 128 |
| Cases of overcrowding abated ... ... ... | 0 |
| Defective houses repaired ... ... ... | 93 |
| ,, floors repaired ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| ,, roofs repaired or renewed ... ... | 37 |
| ,, yards paved ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| ,, external plastering repaired ... ... | 14 |
| ,, internal plastering repaired ... ... | 31 |
| ,, windows repaired ... ... ... | 10 |
| ,, stoves repaired ... ... ... | 9 |
| ,, coppers repaired ... ... ... | 4 |

Number of houses dealt with under Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926 :

| | |
|---|---|
| During year ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Total to date ... ... ... ... ... | 23 |

## DRAINS AND DRAINAGE.

Sewers re-laid during the year :—Nil.

| | |
|---|---|
| Drains examined ... ... ... ... | 55 |
| Defective drains repaired or renewed ... ... | 26 |
| Certificates issued in respect of drainage of new buildings ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Certificates issued in respect of drainage of existing buildings ... ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| Existing w.c.s fitted with flushing cisterns, or cisterns renewed ... ... ... ... ... | 5 |
| Defective traps removed or replaced with approved stoneware gully traps ... ... ... | 3 |
| Defective w.c.s repaired ... ... ... ... | 9 |
| Automatic cisterns fixed ... ... ... ... | 0 |

The following sanitary fittings have been installed during the year :—

| | |
|---|---|
| New baths ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| W.C.s ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Lavatory basins ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| Urinals ... ... .. ... ... | 0 |
| Scullery sinks ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Interceptors ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Septic tanks ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Chemical closets ... ... ... ... | 0 |

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

| | |
|---|---|
| Rooms fumigated ... ... ... ... | 40 |
| Articles of clothing and bedding disinfected ... | 1172 |
| Articles of clothing and bedding destroyed ... ... | 47 |
| Rooms disinfected for notifiable infectious disease ... | 12 |
| ,, ,, ,, tuberculosis ... ... | 4 |
| ,, ,, ,, verminous condition ... ... | 24 |
| Cases removed to Isolation Hospitals ... ... | 10 |

## MILK AND DAIRIES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of cow-keepers and dairymen registered at end of year :— | |
| Producer Wholesalers ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| Producer Wholesalers and Retailers ... ... | 5 |
| Producer Retailers ... ... ... ... | 16 |
| Retailers ... ... ... ... ... | 10 |
| Number removed from register ... ... ... | 1 |
| Number of cowsheds in district ... ... ... | 24 |
| ,, ,, without impervious floors ... | 9 |
| ,, ,, with unsatisfactory drainage ... | 5 |
| ,, ,, ,, ,, ventilation | 5 |
| ,, ,, ,, ,, lighting ... | 3 |
| ,, ,, ,, ,, water supply | 2 |
| Number of visits to dairies, cowsheds, farms, etc. ... | 21 |
| Number of samples of milk taken for examination :— | |
| For cleanliness ... ... ... .. | 11 |
| For tuberculosis ... ... ... ... | 7 |
| For adulteration (taken by County Police) ... | 14 |

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

(Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924)

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of butchers' shops in the district ... ... | 8 |
| Other food shops and stores ... ... ... | 72 |
| Number of visits to butchers' shops ... ... | 115 |
| ,, ,, other food shops and stores ... | 137 |

## Inspection of Meat and Foods.

Slaughtering in District (except for casuals) ceased January 1940, (M.O.F. Order). All meat is received from Paignton Depot.

### WEIGHT OF UNFIT FOOD DESTROYED.

| | Tuberculosis | Other Diseases and Conditions | Total Lbs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Lbs. | Lbs. | |
| Beef ... ... | | 183 | 183 |
| Mutton ... | | | |
| Pork ... .. | 8 | 4 | 12 |
| Offals ... ... | | | |
| Total | | 187 | 195 |

The following Foods have been surrendered as unsound:—

446 tins Meat, Vegetables, Fish, Milk, etc.; 12-lbs. Sugar; 181 Eggs; 6-lbs. Meat Roll; 12-lbs. Sausages; 154-lbs. Cheese; 129 tins (446-lbs.) Pork Luncheon and Sausage Meat; 140-lbs. Hake; 59-lbs. Crabs; 1 tin Turkey; 25-lbs. Bacon; 4-lbs. Brawn; 8-lbs. Galantine; 9 tins Syrup; 1¼-lbs. Chocolate; 324-lbs. Chocolate Spread; 2016-lbs. Biscuits; 1176-lbs. Self-Rasing Flour; 65 Packets Herbs; 2½-cwts. Flour; 12-lbs. Cream Powder; 8-lbs Dripping; 14-lbs. Carraway Seeds; 1-cwt. Milk Powder; 27-lbs. Yeast; 53-lbs. Egg Substitute; 56-lbs. Sugar Substitute; 20-lbs. Margarine; 4-lbs. Cheese; 7-lbs. Baking Powder; 56-lbs. Fat; 600-lbs. Bread; 20-lbs. Sugar.

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Number of slaughter-houses in district :— | | |
| Registered } Not ... ... ... ... | | 3 |
| Licensed } in use ... ... ... ... | | 2 |
| Number of visits to slaughter-houses ... ... | | 0 |
| Number of visits to premises where emergency or occasional slaughtering is carried out ... ... | | 7 |

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of noxious or offensive trades in district ... | 0 |

## NUISANCES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Complaints of nuisances received ... ... ... | 55 |
| Informal notices served ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| Statutory notices served ... ... ... | 0 |
| Nuisances abated without written notice ... ... | 33 |

## SCHOOLS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of schools in district :— | |
| Public ... ... ... ... ... | 5 |
| Private ... ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| Number of schools found defective ... ... | 0 |
| ,, ,, notices to managers ... ... ... | 0 |
| ,, ,, visits to schools ... ... ... | 9 |

## BAKEHOUSES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of bakehouses in district ... ... ... | 10 |
| ,, ,, inspections ... ... ... ... | 15 |
| ,, found defective ... ... ... | 0 |
| ,, of notices to remedy ... ... ... | 0 |

# FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901 AND FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health. Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Number of factories and workshops registered in district 76

| Premises. (1) | | Number of Inspections. (2) | Written Notices. (3) | Occupiers Prosecuted. (4) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Factories with mechanical power .. | 26 | 9 | | |
| Factories without mechanical power | 43 | 27 | | |
| * Other Premises under the Act (including works of building & engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) ... ... | 9 | 9 | | |
| *Electrical stations should be reckoned as factories. | | | | |
| Total | 78 | 45 | | |

## 2.—Defects Found.

| Particulars (1) | Number of Defects: Found (2) | Number of Defects: Remedied (3) | Number of Defects: Referred to H M. Inspector (4) | Number of offences in respect to which prosecutions were instituted (5) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ... | 1 | 1 | | |
| Overcrowding (S. 2) ... ... | | | | |
| Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ... ... ... ... | | | | |
| Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) | | | | |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ... ... ... ... | | | | |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)— | | | | |
| Insufficient ... ... ... | | | | |
| Unsuitable or defective ... | 3 | 3 | | |
| Not separate for sexes ... | 1 | 1 | | |
| Other offences ... ... ... (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Section mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.) | | | | |
| Total ... ... ... | 5 | 5 | | |

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

(1) (a) Number of Council houses found to be infested 1
,, ,, ,, disinfected ... 1
(b) Number of other houses found to be infested 4
,, ,, ,, disinfected ... 4

(2) Spraying with approved insecticide after removing wallpaper, skirting, etc.

(3) No action is taken before the removal of tenant's belongings, except inspection by the Sanitary Inspector.

(4) Work of disinfection is carried out by the Public Health Department.

(5) Tenants are advised by the Sanitary Inspector as to measures to prevent re-infestation after cleansing.

## PETROLEUM AND EXPLOSIVES ACTS.

### Particulars of Registration.

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Licenses granted to store Petroleum Spirit | 10 |
| ,, ,, ,, ,, Carbide of Calcium | 2 |
| ,, ,, ,, ,, Mixed Explosives | 2 |
| ,, ,, ,, ,, Gunpowder and ,, ,, Mixed Explosives in Magazines | 2 |

## RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

### Infestation Order, 1943.

Baits are supplied free, on request, thoughout the year, and their has been no serious cases of infestation reported.

Conferences with adjoining Authorties have been held with a view to joint action under the above Act and Order

## PORT HEALTH DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM.

# REPORT

*For Year ending 31st December, 1943.*

Regular inspections are made of the local boats, also visiting ships are examined by the Customs, and inspected by the Port Medical and Health Officer as a routine matter

No action has been necessary in respect of infectious disease, aud the facilities available for treatment, etc., are the same as outlined in my previous reports.

Yours faithfully,

F. L. GODFREY,

Port Health Inspector.